

VZCZCXRO3968

RR RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHKUK RUEHLZ RUEHROV RUEHSR  
DE RUEHLB #0370 0891432  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 301432Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4561  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC  
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 000370

SENSITIVE

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EEB/IFD/OMA JACOBY  
STATE PASS USTR FRANCESCKI  
STATE PASS USAID LAUDATO/SCOTT  
TREASURY FOR PARODI/BLEIWEISS/CORREA  
USDOC FOR 4520/ITA/MAC/ONE  
NSC FOR McDERMOTT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ECON EFIN EAID LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: FY09 PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO CENTRAL  
GOVERNMENTS WHOSE BUDGETS ARE NOT TRANSPARENT

REF: STATE 28885

¶1. (SBU) It is post's assessment that Lebanon's budget easily meets the standards of transparency set under Section 7088(c)(1) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2009.

¶2. (SBU) The GOL makes all its budgets available online, including both revenues and expenditures. Parliament often passes spending laws mandating expenditures that are not included in the budget, and some public institutions' spending is also not included. Nonetheless, the GOL publishes as much information as possible about additional spending, usually on the websites of the entities that spend it. In addition, on March 16, Finance Minister Mohammad Chatah committed the GOL to a 2-year World Bank budget transparency program, meant to bring Lebanon fully in line with international standards.

SISON